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*Journal*  
*of the Proceedings*

*Indian Treaty*  
*1809*

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# Journal of the Proceedings

INDIAN TREATY

Fort Wayne, September 30th, 1809

CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA

1910



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## PREFACE

In publishing "The Twelve Mile Purchase," a historical monograph of the treaty of 1809, earlier in the year, the generosity of the Knights of Columbus touched an untilled and somewhat forgotten field of research in early Indiana history, and a further exploration of it will be found in the present print, "The Journal of the Proceedings," which is a reproduction without typographical alteration, of the diary kept by Peter Jones, Secretary to Governor Harrison, Commissioner of the United States.

It seems truly deserving of preservation in the popular form here given to it, and of an honored place amid any collection of original data of those early days.

As the search for the facts set forth in the first mentioned work started the inquiry that resulted in the finding of the diary it is altogether fitting to have them published under a like patronage. It is hoped that taken jointly, they will be more than doubly helpful in the promotion of accurate knowledge of the event that opened the way for white settlers in a portion of the Wabash region and in the White Water Valley.

Besides the local appreciation attached to its every detail, in a wider sense, the treaty is likewise not without some value to every student of Indiana history in general, because of the subsequent events that arose from it. The Indians under the influence of the Prophet and Tecumseh were somewhat advanced in the formation of their plans at this time, but it was only in the progression of events that their real designs were uncovered. With the new treaty in existence, evasion ceased to be possible, and their hostile sentiments and their determination to fight were made manifest in the conduct that followed.

What transpired after the treaty of Fort Wayne, can be indicated by a few brief extracts from Dillon's History. This book was written at a time when the local atmosphere of the pioneer days still surrounded our ancestors, and, consequently, the emphasis of events as found there, is quite likely a very true picture of one view of the pioneer period of our commonwealth.

We quote from the edition of 1859:

"Tecumseh clearly intimated that he would resist any attempt that might be made to survey the lands which had been ceded to the United States by the treaty of Fort Wayne." P. 431.



"Throughout the course of the year 1810, various rumors of the growing power and the hostile intentions of the Shawnee Prophet, produced a state of some alarm among the people, and retarded the progress of settlements and improvements in several counties of the Indiana territory."

P. 439.

"In an interview with one of the messengers (of Governor Harrison), who visited the Prophet's Town in the month of June, 1810, the prophet declared that it was not his intention to make war on the white people; and he said that some of the Delawares, and some other Indians, 'had been bribed with whiskey, to make false charges against him.' When pressed by the messenger, Mr. Dubois, to state the grounds of his complaints against the United States, the prophet said that 'the Indians had been cheated out of their lands; that no sale was good unless made by all the tribes; that he had settled near the mouth of the Tippecanoe, by order of the Great Spirit; and that he was, likewise, ordered to assemble as many Indians as he could collect at that place.'"

P. 440.

(From speech of Tecumseh to Gov. Harrison.)

"Brother: this land that was sold, and the goods that were given for it, was only done by a few. . . . The treaty at Fort Wayne was made through the threats of Winamac; but in the future, we are prepared to punish those chiefs who may come forward to propose to sell land. . . . Those that did sell, did not own it. It was me. These tribes set up a claim; but the tribes with me will not agree to their claim. If the land is not restored to us, you will see, when we return to our homes, how it will be settled. We shall have a great council, at which all of the tribes shall be present, when we shall show to those that sold, that they had no right to the claim they set up; and we shall see what will be done

P. 443.

"Brother: I wish you would take pity on the red people, and do what I have requested. If you do not give up the land, and do cross the boundary of our present settlement, it will be very hard, and produce great troubles among us. . . . As we intend to hold our council at the Huron village, that is near the British, we may probably make them a visit. Should they offer us



any presents of goods, we will not take them; but should they offer us powder and the tomahawk, we will take the powder and refuse the tomahawk."

P. 444.

"The governor then requested Tecumseh to state, plainly, whether the surveyors who might be sent to survey the lands—purchased by the treaty of Fort Wayne, in 1809—would be interrupted by the Indians; and whether the Kikapoos would, or would not, receive their annuities. Tecumseh, in reply, said: 'Brother: when you speak of annuities to me, I look at the land, and pity the women and children. I am authorized to say that they will not receive them. Brother, we want to save that piece of land. We do not wish you to take it. It is small enough for our purpose. If you take it, you must blame yourself as the cause of trouble between us and the tribes who sold it to you. I want the present boundary line to continue. Should you cross it, I assure you it will be productive of bad consequences.' The council, which was held in a small grove that stood near the dwelling house of the governor, was then brought to a close.

"On the next day Governor Harrison, attended only by his interpreter, visited the camp of Tecumseh, where he was received politely. In the course of a long interview Tecumseh repeated the principal declaration and sentiments which he had previously uttered and avowed in open council; and when Governor Harrison told him that his claims and pretensions would not be acknowledged by the President of the United States—'Well,' said Tecumseh, 'as the great chief is to determine the matter, I hope the Great Spirit will put sense enough into his head to induce him to direct you to give up this land. It is true, he is so far off he will not be injured by the war. He may sit still in his town, and drink his wine, while you and I will have to fight it out.'"

P. 446.

To enumerate further in the happenings that followed, would be entering into the history of the military campaigns that culminated at Tippecanoe, in 1812, and even to the battles of Malden and the river Thames, in 1813, where Tecumseh in a forlorn hope laid down his life, wearing a British uniform.

For some unknown reason, The Journal of the Proceedings, printed herewith, was omitted from the government publications in the last century, when these matters were first collected in American State Papers, and it remained hidden away for a hun-



dred years, as a manuscript in the files of the Department of War at Washington.

How it was brought to light is shown by a letter and its several answers, which follow; and their publication, also will render credit for the part performed by the eminent Indianian, Senator Beveridge, through whose influence the search, by the War Department officials, for the missing diary was undertaken.

J. L. H.

#### A LETTER AND ITS SEVERAL ANSWERS.

Connersville, Indiana, June 18th, 1909.

HON. ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE,  
Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR:—In the authorization from the War Department to William Henry Harrison, July 15th, 1809, to proceed with a further treaty with the Indians, occurs this instruction:

“A diary of the proceedings, should be kept by the commissioner or the secretary, and a carefully certified copy thereof forwarded with the treaty to this Department.”

American State Papers, Vol I, p. 761.

The treaty was concluded Sept. 30th, 1809, and is printed in full in the volume quoted above, and also in Vol. II Indian Affairs, Treaties, Senate Documents. But I can find no account of the diary required by the official instructions.

Are the minutes of the proceedings preserved in the archives of the Department of War, and are they accessible to the general public? To the best of my knowledge, the state library, at Indianapolis, contains no reference to them except that to be found in the volume referred to, and if the minutes still exist, but have never been put into print, I should be exceedingly favored by whatever interest you manifest in this belated exploration into Indiana history.

The copying of the same by a suitable stenographer is an expense which I shall gladly defray, if you see fit to use your superior opportunities in locating the original manuscript.

With the assurance that whatever aid you give will be very greatly appreciated, and thanking you in advance for overlooking whatever trouble or inconvenience this letter gives you, I beg to remain very respectfully,

Yours truly,  
J. L. HEINEMANN.



Department of the Interior  
Office of Indian Affairs.

Washington, June 30th, 1909.

HON. ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE,  
United States Senate.

SIR:—The office is in receipt, by your reference of June 23rd, of a letter addressed to you by the War Department returning a communication from Mr. J. L. Heinemann, Connersville, Indiana, relative to his desire to obtain a copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the Commission that concluded a treaty with the Delaware, Pottawatomie, Miami and Eel River Indians at Ft. Wayne on Sept. 30, 1809 (7 Stat. L., 113-115).

The Journal referred to, which was found recently in the files of the War Department, was referred to this office by that Department on June 23, 1909, and a certified copy thereof is being prepared and will be forwarded to you for Mr. Heinemann's use as soon as it is completed.

Very respectfully,  
R. I. WALENTEIN,  
*Commissioner.*

Indianapolis, Ind., August 10, 1909.

DEAR MR. HEINEMANN:

I have your letter of August 5th, enclosing draft for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in payment of certified copy of Journal of the Proceedings of the Indian Treaty of 1809. I am returning the draft to you, and beg to suggest that you have same made payable to Mr. Abbott, Acting Commissioner, and forward it to him at Washington direct.

Assuring you that I was very pleased to do what I could in this matter, I am,

Very truly yours,  
ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE.

MR. J. L. HEINEMANN,  
Connersville, Ind.

## CERTIFICATION

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

*Washington, July, 1909.*

I, F. H. Abbott, Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs, do hereby certify that the paper hereto attached is a true copy of the original as the same appears on file in this Office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of this Office to be affixed, on the day and year first above written.

F. H. ABBOTT,  
*Acting Commissioner.*



Vincennes 15th Nov. 1809.

SIR

I have now the honor to enclose the sketch of the lands lately ceded by the Indians to the United States and the Journal kept by Captain Jones the Secretary. There appears to be much more land in these tracts than I expected being upwards of 2,900,000 acres. I believe there are two or three excellent salt springs on the tract near this. General William Clarke who is now at Washington can give you some information on this subject. The one marked in the sketch has been visited since the Treaty by some of our citizens who say that it promises well.

The sketch is principally intended to show the advantages which would arise from opening a Road to Dayton in the State of Ohio it would bring us 120 miles nearer the seat of Government. I believe that the Indians would consent to have the road opened through that part of their country which it must necessarily pass through.

I have Honor to be with  
- great Respect Sir your  
Humble Servant  
WILLM HENRY HARRISON.

The Honorable  
WILLIAM EUSTIS, ESQ.  
Secretary of War

## JOURNAL

On Friday the 1st of September Governor Harrison as Commissioner for Treating with the Indian Tribes set out from Vincennes for Fort Wayne accompanied by his Secretary Peter Jones one Interpreter a French Man as a guide a Servant of the Governor & two Indians. After leaving the Settlement of Knox County our route was along the road newly cut out by the orders of the Government in the direction of the North Bend to its termination, & then along the frontier of the County of Dearborn to Fort Wayne, at which place we arrived on the fifteenth. Directions had been given to Mr. John Johnston the Indian Agent to assemble the Indians, against that time. The Deliware Tribe with their Interpreter) Mr. John Conner reached Fort Wayne

at the very moment of our arrival. Two principal Chiefs Hockingpomscon and the Beaver were however absent on a visit to Detroit.

16th. Part of the Putawatimies arrived under their Chief Winemack.

The Governor learned with regret that the head Chief Tipinipe of the Putawatimies & Five Medals were not returned from Detroit but authorized their son & nephew to act for them. In the evening the Eel River Tribe arrived & more of the Putawatimies.

17th. The Miami Chief Peccan Oul Osage and some inferior ones arrived. A messenger was sent for the little Turtle who returned for answer that he would come in on the 19th Inst. A mischievous report was circulated amongst the Indians that a Detachment of American Troops were marching against them. Some of the young men were much frightened but the Chiefs treated it with the ridicule it deserved. The Putawatimies waited on the Governor & requested a little liquor which was refused. The Governor observed that he was determined to shut up the liquor casks until all the business was finished.

18th. An express was dispatched to Detroit to hasten the arrival of the Deliwares & Putawatimie Chiefs who had gone to that place & whose presence was very much desired by the Governor. Mr. Barron the Interpreter was also sent to the Miami Towns sixty miles distant to bring Richardville the Principal Chief of that Tribe who had excused himself under pretence of real or pretended sickness from coming in with the other Chiefs.

The Governor had a conference with a Deputation from the Deliwares who reside west of the Mississippi who came for the purpose of prevailing on those of that Tribe who reside in this Territory to join their brethren in Louisiana. A reciprocal promise was made by the Governor to promote the above object as much as possible and by the Chiefs to aid his views in respect to the proposed Treaty. Measures were taken also to explain the wishes of the Government to the Putawatimies & to engage their cooperation. More of the Putawatimies & Miamies arrived the whole number on the ground this day was eight hundred and ninety-two.

19th. The Turtle arrived this day with a number of Miamies & Putawatimies. The Governor visited the Putawatimies in their Camp as had previously done the Deliwares. Measures were



also taken to sound several of the most influential Chiefs on the subject of the proposed Treaty. Captain Hendricks the Mohecan Chief informed the Governor that the British Agent of Indian affairs had advised all the Indian Tribes never to listen to any proposition to sell their lands to the United States. Pinnewa a Putawatimie Chief arrived with one hundred Indians of his Tribe.

20th. The Governor had a conference with all the Miami & Eel River Chiefs & explained to them at great length the object of his visit to this place and the great advantage which they would derive from causing the Weas to move from the neighborhood of our Settlements and join their brethren the Miamies & Eel River Tribes) these three tribes are all properly speaking Miamies see the Treaty of Grouseland) Their Nation would then become much more respectable and they would be enabled greatly to increase their annuity by selling a Tract of land which was exhausted of game and which was no longer useful to them. They were desired to take the Governor's proposal into consideration & Coolly & deliberately to weigh all the arguments he had used to adopt his advice. Mr. Wells remained with them at their conference and in the evening reported to the Governor that they had determined on no account ever to part from another foot of their lands. There is some reason to believe however that this was a mere finesse to enhance the price of their land. This evening Mr. Barron returned from the Mississinway & reported that the Chief Richardville was confined to his Bed & observed that it was impossible for him to attend at present but he requested the Governor to be informed that he would come up in a few days if he should find himself able & that he had advised the other Chiefs by all means to comply with Governor's wishes.

21st. The Governor had determined not to assemble the Chiefs in a General Council until the arrival of the Five Medals, the Putawatimie Chief, but finding that his object had been very much misrepresented to them, he commenced on this day both to the Deliwares & Putawatimies the wishes of the Government in relation to a further cession of Lands.

In the evening the Putawatimie Chiefs sent a message to the Governor to inform him that they had determined that the other Tribes should agree to make the proposed cession.

22nd. In Council present, Governor Harrison as Commissioner Plenipotentiary on the part of the United States and a full rep-

resentation of the Deliware, Miami, Eel River & Putawatimie Tribes of Indians by their Chiefs & Head Men.

William Wells Joseph Barron John Conner and Abraham Ash were sworn Interpreters. The Governor addressed the Chiefs in a speech of considerable length showing the propriety of their agreeing to his proposition to sell a tract of Country binding on the Wabash the Vincennes tract and the boundary established by the Treaty of Grouseland and another bounded by the latter on the south & the old boundary line running from Mouth of Kentucky River on the East. He urged the vast benefit which they derived from their annuities without which they would not be able to cloathe their woman & children. The great advance in the price of Goods and the depression of the value of their peltries from the troubles in Europe to which there was no probability of a speedy termination. The little game which remained in their country particularly in that part of it which he proposed to purchase. The usurpation of it by a Banditti of Muscoes & other Tribes that the sale of it would not prevent them from hunting upon it as long as any game remained. But that it was absolutely necessary that they should adopt some other plan for their support. That the raising of Cattle & Hogs required little labor and would be the surest resource as a substitute for the wild animals which they had so unfortunately destroyed for the sake of their skins. Their fondness for hunting might still be gratified if they would prevent their young men from hunting at improper seasons of the year. But to do this effectually it will be necessary that they should find a certain support in their Villages in the summer season. That the proposed addition to their annuities would enable them to procure the Domestic Animals necessary to commence raising them on a large scale. He observed also that they were too apt to impute their poverty and the scarcity of Game to the encroachments of the White Settlers. But this is not the true cause. It is owing to their own improvidence & the advice of the British Traders by whom they were stimulated to kill the wild animals for the skins alone when the flesh was not wanted. That this was the cause of their scarcity is evident from their being found in much greater quantity on the south than on the north side of the Wabash where no white man but traders were ever seen.

The remnant of the Weas who inhabit the Tract of Country which was wanted were from the vicinity to the Whites poor &



miserable all the proceeds of their hunts & the great part of their annuities expended in Whiskey. The Miami Nation would be much more respectable & formidable if its scattered members were all assembled in the center of their Country.

A rough sketch of the Country in which the two tracts which were wanted were particularly delineated was shewn to them, after which the Owl a Miami Chief addressed the Governor.

Father we are very happy to here your address. We shall take what you have said into consideration & will return you an answer.

23rd. The Chiefs met in Council at the Deliware Camp to consider the Governor's proposition it was understood that the Putawatimies declared unequivocally in favour of the sale and were seconded by the Deliwares. The miamies remained silent. The Governor had a private interview with the Turtle who expressed some solicitude to know whether the dismissal of Mr. Wells from his employment as Agent would effect his standing with the Government. The Governor assured him that he should be treated in all respects as he had been heretofore so long as he conducted himself with propriety. He then assured the Governor unequivocally that he would exert himself to the utmost of his power to effect the proposed Treaty, but that many difficulties were to be encountered before it could be accomplished. That great complaints were made by the Indians on account of the compensation forlerly allowed. That those who were in favour of the Treaty were decidedly of opinion that they aught to be allowed for the larger tribes at least a further annuity of \$1000 & for the smaller ones \$500 besides a considerable sum in hand. In the evening the Miami Chiefs waited on the Governor at his lodgings and spent the evening with him. The requested to have a little liquor for their young man. Two Gallons were given to each Tribe. A Potawatomie Chief Winemack waited on the Governor late in the evening and told him that he came to make him sleep well by communicating the agreeable information that his proposition would be acceded to by the Indians.

24th. The Indians met in Council to determine upon the answer to be given to the Governor. When the Miamies declared their determination not to sell a foot of Land. Observing that it was time to put a stop to the encroachments of the whites who were eternally purchasing their lands for less than the real value of them. That they had also heard that the Governor had no in-

structions from the President to make the purchase but that he was making it upon his own authority to please the White people whom he governed. The Putawatimies vehemently urged the sale & reproached the Miamies in the most bitter terms. "That the Putawatimies had taken the Miamies under their protection when they were in danger of being exterminated & saved them. That they had always agreed to the sale of lands for the benefit of the Miamies and they were now determined that the Miamies should sell for their benefit."

The Delawares would take no active part on either side. 25th. All the Tribes were assembled in Council and the Governor addressed them as follows

My Children

My Heart is oppressed. If I could have believed that I should have experienced half of the mortification and disappointment which I now feel, I would have entreated your Father the President to have chosen some other Representative to have made known his wishes to you. The proposition which I have made you, I fondly hoped would have been acceptable to all, because I knew it would be beneficial to all. Why then this disagreement amongst you. Is there some evil spirit amongst us? That has set Brothers against Brothers & the Children against the Father? The Wind I hear has blown from the North, no good has ever yet come from that quarter. If we who inhabit this great Island, who were born here, are not friends to each other, who will be our Friends.

Believe me my Children, the people upon the other side of the big water would desire nothing better than to set us once more to cut each others throats. Glad enough would they be to see us contending against each other in battle provided they were secured behind the Walls of a strong fort. Miamies be not offended with your brothers the Putawatimies. If they have discovered too much eagerness to comply with the wishes of their Father. Look at their Woman & Children see them exposed to the winds & the rain as they will be in a short time to the snows of the Winter. Putawatimies do not suffer your love for your Father and your own distresses to make you angry with your brothers the Miamies. I know that they are attached to you. I am sure that everything will yet be fixed to your satisfaction.

Chiefs & Warriors of the Delaware. I have put confidence in you and you have not deceived me, you have united with your



grand Children the Puttawatimies to accomplish the wishes of your Father, he will remember you for it. The proceedings of this Council written by the Secretary will be sent to him, his eyes will see it & whenever you take him by the hand you will know that his heart is yours. You brothers on the Mississippi shall also feel the good effects of your fathers affection for you.

I promise you that the Osages shall not molest you in your hunting grounds.

My Children the Miamies, what disconcerts you? Have you not always received justice from the hands of your father? What is it he asks of you? Nothing but what you can spare. Will not your situation be made better by agreeing to his proposal? I know that you have long desired to have your brothers the Weas alongside of you. It will add to your strength—at present they are of no use to you—bring your scattered members together & you will be strong, besides there is danger that this distant member may fall off it is already weakened by the excessive use of liquor. My Children your father will never be the cause of breaking the chain of friendship that connects you with each other.

Puttawatimies & Miamies look upon each other as brothers and at the same time look upon your grand fathers the Delawares. I love to see you all united. I wish a strong chain to bind you all together in the bonds of friendship. I wish to hear you speak with one voice the dictates of our Heart. All must go together. The consent of all is necessary.

Deliwares and Putawatimies, I told you that I would do nothing with the Miamies without your consent. Miamies I now tell you that nothing can be done without your consent. The consent of the whole is necessary. This is the first request your new Father (President Madison) has ever made you it will be the last, he wants no more of your land agree to the proposition which I now make you & send on some of your wise men to take him by the hand. He will set your Hearts at ease. He will tell you that he will never make another proposition to you to sell your lands.

My Children the Miamies will you not listen to the voice of your father will you not open your ears to the recommendation of your grand fathers the Deliwares & your brothers the Puttawatimies. Consult together once more if any ill will remain in your breasts against each other banish it, throw it away, and return a favorable answer to this last request of your Father.

The Turtle A Miami Chief then spoke as follows

'We have listened to what our Father has said.' Putawatimies & Deliwares we have heard him say that you were united for the purpose of complying with his wishes I am sorry that he has met with so much difficulty. It is true that we the Miamies are not united with the Deliwares and Putawatimies in opinion. Father it appears that the thing is now left with the Miamies, they will withdraw and consult together and after they have made up their minds you shall hear our answer.

In the evening the Miami Chiefs from two Villages met with the Eel River Chiefs under the auspices of the Turtle & agreed to meet the Governor's wishes.

26th. A meeting of the several Tribes took place. The Putawatimies urged an immediate compliance to the proposal of the United States The Miamies from Mississinway took the lead in the debate & declared that they would never consent to sell any more of their lands that they had been advised by the Father the British never to sell another foot. The Putawatimies poured upon them a torrent of abuse & declared that they would no longer consider them as Brothers but that they would loose the chain which had united them with the Tomahawk & setting up a shout of Defiance which was echoed by all the warriors proceeded immediately to the Council House to inform the Governor of what they had done, the Governor blamed them for their rashness & made them promise not to offer the Miamies any further insult to put their cause in his hands.

It appeared that such of the Miamies as had determined in favour of the Treaty were intimidated by the vehemence of the Chiefs of the Mississinway Village & remained silent. During the whole of this day and the preceeding one, parties of young men of the Miami Tribe were constantly arriving loaded with goods from the British Agents at Malden and charged also with strong remonstrances against the proposed Treaty.

In the evening the Governor had the greater part of the Miami Chiefs at his lodgings and in a conversation of some hours exposed profidious conduct of the British towards them from the commencement of the Revolutionary War untill the present moment. "To them all their misfortunes were to be attributed & their present kindness to them proceeded from no other cause but a wish to embroil them with the United States. In case of a War with the latter, the English know that they are unable to defend



Canada with their own force, they are therefore desirous of interposing the Indians between them and danger." A complimentary answer was returned by the Head Chief Paccon & they returned about ten o'clock a little *melowed* with Wine.

27th. The Miami Chiefs were this day debating on the proposed Treaty, the Chief Silver heels particularly distinguished himself in favour of the Treaty. They came however to no decision. In the evening the Governor recommended to the Putawatimies to accommodate their difference with the Miamies they immediately assented & a proper quantity of Wampon was prepared for the purpose.

28th. The Putawatimies & Miamies met & the bad words spoken by the former on the 26th being recalled they shook hands and became again friends. The proposed Treaty was again taken under consideration and various objections were started by the Miamies amongst other things it was insisted that they ought to sell their lands by the acre & that they should receive two Dollars for it. In the evening the Governor was informed that they had agreed to sell the small tract near Fort Recovery only, and none on the Wabash.

29th. In Council present the Governor and the Deliware, Putawatimies, Miamies & Eel River Miamies.

The Owl a Miami Chief

Said "That it had pleased the great Spirit to unite again all who were present in the bands of friendship. Yesterday the friendship was all afloat to-day it is made firm. You the people of the United States have assembled us all here, our Chiefs, &c. You rember the time when we first took each other by the hand at Greenville. You there told us where the line would be between us. You told us to love our woman & children and take care of our lands. you told us that the Spanish had a great deal of money the English & some of your people likewise, but that we should not sell out lands to any of them. In consequence of which last fall we all put our hands upon our lands & determined not to sell our lands. We all love our lands. After this determination you sent for us at the end of one year but we did not expect to hear from you what we have heard, but we yesterday determined to give you an answer. You have told us not to let any person have our lands but consider well before we sell them. This was good advice, you know when things are scarsce they are dear/, you

S. M. W. C.

know the price of lands. We are willing to sell you some for the price that it sells for amongst yourselves. The land you want on the Wabash we have nothing to say to at present as the Weas are not here. If people have anything that they do not want they will part from it easily. We yet find game on this land when there is none. We will let you know it. Father you know the Miamies, you know that when they do business with any other Indians no respect is paid to what they say. Father at this Council you have told the Miamies to speak. We therefore expect that you will be governed by what they say. When you spoke to us you wished that we should comply. We now wish that you would comply with what we wish. The land we propose selling to you will be measured and when it is we wish to be present. Father the land you mentioned to us on the Wabash we have nothing to say about. We do not wish you to go home unsuccessful. We will let you have some land near Fort Recovery, the land on the Wabash our younger Brothers occupy. Dont be dissatisfied. This is our determination. We have disputed about your proposal but our disputes were fortunately settled yesterday. Father you know everything, you will immediately understand what I now say—we wish to keep as far as possible from the White people, we know that when your Horses are lost you blame the Indians, we wish to keep our people and yours as separate as possible. This is the sentiments of your Children here present. We have nothing more to say. Our Chiefs, Warriors, Woman & Children salute you, the former annuity due to us by the United States we have come to receive and wish them delivered as soon as possible.

The Governor then addressed them in a speech of two hours in which he gave a History of the Conduct of the United States towards the red people contrasted with that of Great Britain. "The loss of the country from Pittsburgh to the Miami was entirely to be attributed to the latter who urged the Indians to commence all those Wars, which had terminated so fatally to them. If all the lands which had been taken from them in those Wars which they had engaged in by the advice of the British had been sold on the same terms as those ceded since the Treaty of Greenville their Annuity would now have been equal to all their wants nor would they have to lament the numerous warriors who had fallen in fighting the battles of the English. How different was the conduct of the United States? Consious of their ability to



punish their enemies they had never asked the assistance of their red children but have always advised them to remain at peace in their Cabbins & suffer the white people to fight their own battles." The Governor explained to them the nature of a Treaty "No other power but the United States had ever Treated with them. Other Civilized Nations considered the lands of the Indians as their own and appropriated them to their own use whenever they pleased. A Treaty was considered by white people as a most solemn thing and those which were made by the United States with the Indian Tribes were considered as binding as those which were made with the most powerful Kings on the other side of the Big Water. They were all concluded with the same forms and printed in the same Book so that all the world might see them and brand with infamy the party which violated them. The United States would always adhere to their engagements. To do otherwise would be offensive to the great spirit and all the world would look upon them as a faithless people. With respect to your selling the land by the acre it is entirely out of the question. But if the United States were to agree to it, you have no one that could survey it for you or who could tell whether it was accurately done or not. If it was sold by the acre we would only take what was good and leave the rest upon your hands. When it is bought in the large quantity you are paid for good and bad together and you all know that in every tract that is purchased that there is a great portion of bad land not fit for our purpose. This idea must have been suggested to you by some person who is as much your enemy as the enemy of the United States." The Governor then told them that he was tired of waiting and that on the next day he would submit to them the form of a Treaty which he wished them to signe and if they would not agree to it he would extinguish the council fire.

Winemack a Putawatimie Chief then addressed the Governor as follows

Father

All the Putawatimies address you, listen to what they say, which come from them all. Father the Putawatimies are of the same opinion that they have ever been, that your proposition is right and just. We all know that our Father never deceived us. we therefore agree to his proposal. All the Chiefs & Warriors have heard you say that they may go and see their great Father the President and that he would tell them as you have done.

You have now heard the sentiments of of all the Putawatimies. Father after we conclude the Treaty some of our young men would be glad to go and see their Father. Father your Children have listened to you with attention all that you have said is good, you have asked for land, we will give it to you. We have heard you say that the piece of land at the Wea Towns which we had formerly given, you were willing to restore this has made us happy we have always heard from you and our Father Jefferson nothing but good. We wish to concur with all the nations who are present. We your children consider the land as belonging to us all not to one nation alone, we know that everything you have said to us is true. You have also recommended to us to be moderate & friendly to each other.

A Deliware Chief then arose and observed that the Deliwares had always kept fast hold of the chain of friendship which united them to the seventeen fires at the Treaty of Greenville. That they had always listened to the voice of their Father and were now willing to agree to his proposals.

As soon as the Putawatimie Chief began to speak all the Mississinway Miamies left the Council House.

30th. It was now the opinion of all the Gentlemen about the Fort that the Mississinway Miamies could never be brought to sign the Treaty and all the attempts which the Governor had made through the Interpreters and some confidential Chiefs to find out the real cause of their obstinacy had hitherto failed. He therefore determined to make them a visit to their camp in person for the purpose of ascertaining whether their opposition proceeded from a fixed determination (as they had asserted) not to sell any more lands unless they could get two Dollars pr. Acre, or some other cause which he might be enabled to remove. He accordingly went to their camp about sun rise attended only by his Interpreter Mr. Barron in whose integrity he had the utmost confidence. He was received by all the Chiefs with the utmost complacency and having collected them all in the Tent of the principal he told them "that he had paid them that visit not as the Representative of the President but as an old friend with whom they had been many years acquainted and who always endeavored to promote their happiness by every means in his power. That he plainly saw that there was something in their hearts which was not consistent with the attachment which they ought to bear to their great Father and he was afraid that they



had listened to bad birds. That he had come there for the purpose of hearing every cause of complaint against the United States and he would not leave them untill they laid open everything that oppressed their Hearts. He knew that they could have no solid objection to the proposed Treaty for they were all men of sense and reflection and well knew that they would be much benefited by it." The Governor requested that all the Chiefs present would speak in their turn, and calling upon the principal Chief of the Eel River Tribe who was an old friend of his that had served with him in General Waynes Army he demanded what his objections were to the Treaty. He drew out the Treaty of Grouseland. "Father—Here are your own words, in this paper you promised that you would consider the Miamies as the owners of the land on the Wabash why then are you about to purchase it from others? The Governor assured them that it never was his intention to purchase the land from the other Tribes that he had always said and was ready now to confess that the land belonged to the Miamies and to no other Tribe that if the other Tribes had been invited to the Treaty it was at their particular request (The Miamies). The Putawatimies had indeed taken higher ground than either the Governor or the Miamies expected they claimed an equal right to the lands in question with the Miamies, but what of this their claiming it gave them no right and it was not the intention of the Governor to put anything in the Treaty which would in the least alter their claim to their lands on the Wabash as established by the Treaty of Grouseland unless they chose to satisfy the Deliwares with respect to their claim to the Country Watered by the White River. That even the whole compensation proposed to be given for the lands would be given to the Miamies if they insisted upon it but that they knew the offence which this would give to the other Tribes and that it was always the Governor's intention so to draw up the Treaty that the Putawatimies & Deliwares would be considered as participating in the advantages of the Treaty as allies of the Miamies, not as having any right to the land." Every countenance brightened at this declaration, the other Chiefs spoke in their turn, each had some grievance to complain of. They had been told that justice should be done to them in their disputes with the White People, the principal War Chief complained that he had been cheated by a Mr. Audrain a connection of Mr. Wells out of seventy Dollars that he had in vain

applied to Wells for redress, the old story of the Spirits seized by Wells was again brought forward and a very strong antipathy both to Wells and the Turtle was manifested by all. The Governor had no alternative but to promise immediate satisfaction for these claims and to assure them that he perfectly understood and admitted that they (the Mississinway Chiefs) were the real Representatives of the Miami Nation and that he should always consider them as such. Some attempts were then made to induce the Governor to alter his determination with respect to the quantum of compensation to be given for the land but finding that the Governor was immovable as to this point they gave it up and after dissultory conversation upon the Governor's demanding whether they were entirely satisfied Pacan the principal Chief told the Governor he might go to the Fort and they would shortly wait upon him with good news. The Treaty was immediately prepared and in full council at which all the Warriors attended, the Treaty was signed without a single objection excepting on the part of the Turtle who objected to the article which gives the Mohecans the right to settle on the White River. The Other Miami Chiefs however declared in favour of it and the Turtle gave it up.

The separate article with the Miamies had been agreed on before upon their consenting to the Article in the original Treaty which embraces the Kickapoos.

October the first, second and third The Governor was employed in delivering the annuities for the present year. The Goods promised by the late Treaty and arranging the claims of certain Citizens against the Indians & those of the Indians against the Citizens for Horses stolen and other depredations all which were amicably adjusted. When the Goods for the Putawatimies were laid out Viz: fifteen hundred Dollars from the public store & five hundred Dollars of their annuity which had been sent to Fort Wayne seeing that their *pile* was so much less than the Miamies they refused to take them alledging that their numbers were greater than all the other Tribes present put together & that they had less goods than any. As soon as the Governor was informed of this he assembled all the Chiefs & Warriors in the Council House and explained to them the reason of their having but five hundred Dollars of their present years annuity part having been sent to Detroit & a part to Chicago After some consultation they agreed to take the Goods but as the Gov-



ernor discovered that they were not satisfied he agreed to advance them five hundred Dollars in anticipation of their next years annuity.

4th. We set out on our return to Vincennes through the Indian Country on the morning of the 5th passed the Camp of Pacan the principal Miami Chief & found one of his men mortally wounded in a drunken frolick the preceding night. The Chiefs informed the Governor that they had not discovered the murderer. The Governor recommended to them by all means to punish him when discovered if it should appear to have proceeded from previous malice, but if it should appear to be altogether accident to let him know it and he would assist to make up the matter with the friends of the deceased.

Passing through the Indian Villages at the Forks of the Wabash we arrived at Mississinway on the 6th where we were hospitably received by Richardville the Grand Sachem of the Miamies who expressed his entire satisfaction at the conclusion of the Treaty. At the Eel River Village on the Rabiere we met with some of the Wea Tribe whom the Governor sent to collect the Wea Chiefs & conduct them to Vincennes at which place we arrived on the 12th October.

The whole number of Indians present the day the Treaty was signed was thirteen hundred and ninety.

On the fifteenth of October Lapoussier the principal Chief of the Weas arrived with fifteen of his Tribe The little Eyes & some others on the 18th, Shawnee and others on the 19th & the Negro legs on the 22d. In all on that day there were sixty-one.

On the 24th. The Governor assembled in the evening at his own house all the Indians and informed them "that he wished to see them to discover whether they were in a situation to understand the important business which He had to lay before them. He had shut up the liquor casks, but he was sorry to see that some bad white men had disregarded his Proclamation & secretly furnished them with the means of intoxication. He was glad however to find that they were then all sober & he hoped that they would not drink any more until the business on which he assembled them was finished. On the morrow he would explain to them the proceedings of the Council at Fort Wayne."

October 25th. The Wea Chiefs being all assembled the Governor produced the Treaty lately made at Fort Wayne and explained it to them. He then represented to them "the advantages they

would derive from removing from the neighborhood of Vincennes and settling higher up the Country with their older brothers the Miamies and the great assistance that they would derive from the proposed addition to their annuity & the Goods which they were to receive in hand and which would be to the same amount as the larger Tribes received in consequence of the inconvenience they would suffer by removing from their present habitations.

October 26th. The Chiefs of the Weas all assembled & after some explanations with respect to the Treaty & a most urgent appeal from the Negro legs to the Governor's feelings on the subject of the injury done to the Indians by the sale of Whisky by the White people for which they receive in payment Articles indispensable to the subsistence of the former & those which would cover their nakedness. The Treaty was cheerfully signed by every Chief & head Warrior present.

October 27th. The Goods were delivered and on the 29th the Chiefs again met the Governor & expressed their satisfaction at what had been done & most earnestly entreated "that some means might be fallen on to put a stop to the sale of Ardent Spirits to the Indians—Which prevented the Annuity granted them by the United States from affording them that benefit which their father wished & caused the young men to be so disobedient to their Chiefs that it is impossible to restrain them."

The above is a true statement of the proceedings at the Treaties concluded with the several Indian Tribes at Fort Wayne on the 30th September last and with the Weas at Vincennes on the 26th Ultimo.

PETER JONES, Secretary to Governor  
Harrison Commissioner of the United States.









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